

Miserable!

I Samuel 15:19-23

¹⁹ Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?"

²⁰ "But I did obey the LORD," Saul said. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. ²¹ The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

²² But Samuel replied:

"Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD?

**To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.**

**²³ For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.**

**Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
he has rejected you as king."**

1. Minimize prayer

28:6 He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets.

2. Minimize the Bible

15:11 I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.

3. Minimize "Godly people" opinions

15:1 Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the LORD sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the LORD.

15:24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them."

4. Minimize confessing failures

15:21 The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

15:25 Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD."

5. Maximize ritual over living right

15:22 "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD?"